



Medicine for a wounded heart

See Page 4B



THE FRONTLINE



We are the Army's Home

TOP 10 WAYS TO USE YOUR TAX REFUND

PAGE 5B

1B

COMMUNITY & LEISURE

FEBRUARY 2, 2012

3SB battalions take relationships seriously

Sgt. 1st Class Rhonda M. Lawson
3rd Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

It is a common theory that Soldiers generally have short relationships. High deployment rates or a lack of relationship skills can be touted as rea-

sons for this problem, but for the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, Third Infantry Division ministry team, the importance lies more in solving the issue.

One of the ways they've set out to do this is the Strong Bond Single Soldier Retreats, which they host each quarter.

This quarter, two of the brigade's battalions, the Special Troops Battalion and the 260th Quartermaster Battalion, hosted retreats at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando, Fla., Jan. 20-22.

More than 50 Soldiers took advantage of the opportunity to take control of their

relationships in the Sunshine State. The retreat included five sessions that addressed things to consider when entering a relationship, including picking a partner, Family dynamics, skills for relationships, expectations and disappointments, and commitment.

See **RELATIONSHIPS**

Page 7B



Photo by Elvia Kelly

Lona Laveroni, District Teacher of the Year Tracey Fairfax and Terry Houtkooper were honored with Teacher of the Year recognition at Brittin Elementary, Jan. 26.

ROCK OF THE MARNE!

'Teachers of the Year' honored for excellence, achievement

Elvia Kelly
Fort Stewart Public Affairs

The Department of Defense Education Activity's mission statement states that it is to provide an exemplary education that inspires and prepares all students for success in a dynamic, global environment.

And, three teachers from the home of the Third Infantry Division did just that.

For their sheer determination and superior achievement, Terry Houtkooper from Brittin Elementary School, Lona Laveroni from Diamond Elementary School and Tracey Fairfax from Kessler Elementary School were honored Teacher of the Year at Brittin Elementary School for the South Carolina/Fort Stewart/ Department of Defense Dependents Schools Cuba District, Jan. 26.

With 24 years of working with children, Houtkooper accepted the Teacher of the

Year award. She has taught students at the first, second and sixth grade level.

Currently a kindergarten teacher at Diamond Elementary, Laveroni received the Teacher of the Year award. Her experience includes teaching the fifth grade for 12 years in Hawaii.

A third grade teacher at Kessler Elementary, Fairfax was recognized with the District Teacher of the Year award. She has been a teacher at Kessler for four years. Fairfax began her Department of Defense Education Activity career as a second grade teacher at West Point Elementary School in West Point, NY.

"I have been honored this year with the title of District Teacher of the Year," Fairfax said, who is also a U.S. Army veteran and a Family Member. "It is a rewarding experience [to know] that you have been selected by your peers and your community to represent your entire district."

See **TEACHERS**

Page 7B

Construction begins for Winn ACH's expansion

Michelle L. Gordon
MEDDAC Public Affairs

The first phase of a two-part construction project to expand Winn Army Community Hospital began Jan. 23 with a groundbreaking ceremony.

The two-story, 65,000 square foot addition will be located on the northwest side of the existing facility, adjacent to the outpatient clinic entrance. Once complete, the first floor will house musculoskeletal functions including: Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy,

Orthopedics and Podiatry. The second floor will include the Behavioral Health Clinic and Social Work Services.

Hospital Commander Col. Ronald J. Place said the new space will consolidate more health services under one roof.

"When Winn Army Community Hospital opened in 1983 all health care on post was received in this facility," said Col. Place. "However, during the last three decades we expanded into 23 buildings on post."

See **WINN**

7B

Tax center ready for business

Renee Reese
Fort Stewart Public Affairs

Marne Tax Center delivers on its promise to save money for Soldiers, Family Members and retirees by offering free tax preparation during this current tax filing season. Despite the rain clouds Fort Stewart Garrison Commander Col. Kevin. Milton, was on hand for the grand opening ceremony, Jan. 27 at building 709.

"We have so many Soldiers, Family Members, retirees who need this service," Col. Milton said. "We can provide it [service] for free as opposed to an organization that will charge. We are proud to provide the service."

The tax center officially opened Jan. 23 and will remain open until April 17, the tax filing deadline. Portions of the tax center will stay open beyond the filing deadline.

See **TAX**

7B



Photo by Diane Johnson, MVICS

Fort Stewart Garrison Commander, Col. Kevin Milton is joined by Capt. Tennaile Timbrook; Capt. Catharine Parnell and Bruce Anglin with the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate in cutting the ceremonial ribbon for the Marne Tax Center, bldg. 709, Jan. 27.

WOOF, WOOF! Pooch Pines Dog Park opens at Holbrook Pond

Bob Mathews
FMWR Publicity Specialist

Pooch Pines Dog Park, a two-acre, off-leash facility located off Highway 144 in the Holbrook Recreation Area of Fort Stewart, has opened its gates to wags of approval from pets and thumbs up reviews from their owners.

The park is available for use around the clock every day, including holidays, throughout the year. There is no charge.

"Since the Dog Park doesn't produce revenue to pay for its maintenance and upkeep, we're counting on the cooperation of responsible dog owners to be good stewards taking care of the park and help keep it clean," said Susan Chipple, Director of Outdoor Recreation.

"We'll be having volunteer work days at Pooch Pines throughout the

year," she added.

Among Pooch Pines' attractions are:

- A small-dog area for canines weighing less than 25 pounds and a separate, large-dog area for those weighing more than 25 pounds. The areas adjoin and are accessed through a double-gate entry system designed to prevent escape or injury while entering or leaving.
- Agility-improving equipment that invites pets to climb, jump, crawl, run, play or just socialize and explore. Owners can utilize the equipment in teaching dogs to obey commands.



Photo by Bob Mathews

Brian Wheeler watches as "Tuff" leaps through the Tire Jump.

See **WOOF**

Page 7B

'HAYWIRE,' REVIEWED



Sasha McBrayer
Frontline Contributor

Last week we discussed “Warrior,” a film which led two actors to learn mixed martial arts. This week, we’ll discover Gina Carano, a mixed martial artist who tries her hand at acting for the first time.

In the trailer for “Haywire,” the faces of Channing Tatum, Ewan McGregor, Michael Fassbender, Bill Paxton, Antonio Banderas and Michael Douglas grace the screen — a veritable circus of A-list hunks, circling just to showcase one unknown lady (Carano).

In “Haywire,” the spotlight is definitely on her as she stars as Malory Kane, a tough-as-nails black ops contractor caught up in a web of betrayal.

I. Could. Not. Wait. To see this movie and rushed out on opening night. It’s directed by Steven Soderbergh, who made “Erin Brockovich,” “Ocean’s Eleven” and “Contagion.” He has been credited with getting such a fantastic performance out of Carano.

Carano’s fight scenes are superb. There is no tricky or shaky camera work obscuring the fighters from view. There are no special effects. In fact, the soundtrack cuts out and all you hear are the hits Carano dishes out and weathers with grace.

Perhaps best of all is that Carano isn’t super-heroic. On the one hand, she has weight, presence and muscle. But on the other hand, the script allows for

her to fail and even slip up.

That being said, as much as I dig Carano’s performance, I have a bone to pick with other elements.

First, Soderbergh lets long-time collaborator David Holmes tackle the soundtrack. I love his work, but the last thing you want to hear as a slick young woman stalks her enemy, is chilled jazz.

Second, WHAT. AN. AWFUL. SCRIPT. It was confusing. It was heartless. And there was no real resolution.

I’m not a fan!

I do, however, hope another filmmaker matches Carano to a proper script real soon.

I congratulate Michael Fassbender on his scenes, too. He can do no wrong. And Hollywood: Quit giving McGregor bad-guy roles. He is as believable as a kitten when it comes to villainy.



P R E S E N T S
TODAY THROUGH SUNDAY

Sherlock Holmes a Game of Shadows

Today — 7 p.m.

(Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law)

Legendary detective Sherlock Holmes and his trusted colleague, Watson, latest challenge is to bring down a new nemesis and unravel a deadly plot that could destroy the country. Joining in on the newest adventure is Irene Adler who is the only woman ever to have bested Holmes and who has maintained a tempestuous relationship with the detective.

Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action, and some drug material.

Alvin and the Chipmunks

Friday — 6 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday — 3 p.m.

(Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler)

Playing around while aboard a cruise ship, the Chipmunks and Chipettes accidentally go overboard and end up marooned in a tropical paradise. They discover their new turf is not as deserted as it seems.

Rated G.

We Bought a Zoo

Friday — 9 p.m.

Saturday — 6 p.m.

(Matt Damon, Scarlett Johansson)

Inspiring and true story about the magical power of Family to persevere in the face of extraordinary challenges. Damon portrays a single dad who, looking to give his Family a much-needed fresh start, moves to a home situated in the middle of a zoo, which he and his two children will attempt to bring back to its once glorious state.

Rated PG for language and some thematic elements.



Films are subject to availability. AAFES strives to show films according to the published schedule but reserves the right to reschedule, cancel or substitute showings as needed. For more information, call 912-767-3069 or go to www.shopmyexchange.com/ReelTimeTheatres/Movies-FtStewart.htm.



DFMWR Briefs

FMWR on Web, Facebook

Visit the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Web site for information about what FMWR has to offer Soldiers and Families at Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield. The site is at www.stewartmwr.com/.

Also, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FortStewartHunterFMWR.

Super Bowl at Rocky's Zone

The New York Giants and New England Patriots will battle it out in Indianapolis on Sunday to determine who the Super Bowl XLVI champion is.

It's the biggest football event of the year, and you can be part of all the action at Rocky's Zone, where food, fun and prizes will add to your enjoyment.

Pregame and all-day events will include door prizes, tail-gate games and football poster games. Rocky's doors will open at noon, and the Super Bowl day will begin with a football movie marathon. A Madden 12 gaming tournament will start at 2 p.m.

This year's event is open to all ID cardholders 18-years-old and over. There won't be a bad seat in the house: the game will fill every television screen in Rocky's. There's no cover charge.

In addition to the excitement, all will be offered the chance to enter into a drawing for the "Best Seats in the House" where, if chosen, they'll get to watch the game on the big-screen in Rocky's movie theatre. Eight people will be selected from the drawing and will be allowed to bring one guest.

Burgers, wings, chicken fingers, fries and nachos with chili cheese will be available for purchase, along with \$10 beer buckets. During half-time, there will be games and giveaways.

For more information, call 912-767-8715.

Valentine's Special slated

Holbrook Pond Campground, located off Highway 144 East, is planning a special Valentine's weekend Feb. 10-12, with an opportunity to win a free night's stay.

Tent camping on that weekend is \$15 for two nights and RV camping is \$24 for two nights. The price includes a welcome campfire, Feb. 10, as well as Family games, roasting hot dogs and making s'mores, Feb. 11.

Participating Families could win a free night's stay at Holbrook Pond Campground. Participants must register in advance to participate and the weekend stay at the campground is required.

For more information, call 912-435-8213.

Splash away at Cardboard Boat Regatta

Put your ingenuity and talents to work building a cardboard boat and you might just win a prize at the Tominac Fitness Center's pool, Feb. 11.

That's the date of Hunter's Cardboard Boat Regatta, a fun event in which active-duty, Family Members and other authorized facility users are welcome to participate. Trophies will be awarded for what is judged to be the "best boat" and to the team with the best time.

The idea is to use only cardboard and duct tape to build a boat that will make it the length of the pool with a two-person crew. The fitness center doors open

at 12:30 p.m. on Regatta day and the race starts at 1:30 p.m., with awards to follow.

There is no charge to enter, and teams can register at Tominac up to the time of the event.

For more information, call 912-315-5078.

Join adventurous youth trips

Two trips are planned during February, Black History Month, for CYSS-registered youth in grades 5-12.

The first trip, "The Dreamer, the Life & Times of Martin Luther King Jr. in Liberty County," will be to Dorchester Center, Feb. 11. Youth can learn how Dr. King trained teachers and developed strategies for Freedom Marches there. Registration continues through Feb. 9. There is no charge.

The second trip, on Feb. 25, will be to the First African Baptist Church for an in-depth history lesson about slavery and the role of the church in the "Underground Railroad." The tour also will include a visit to the Owens Thomas House, one of the finest pre-Civil War houses in Savannah. The cost is \$4 per youth. Registration continues through Feb. 23.

Fort Stewart and Hunter youth can be registered through the CYSS Webtrac on-line system, webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/stewartcyms.html or at one of the Parent Central Services offices at Stewart, 912-767-2312 or Hunter, 912-767-5425.

Day trips planned for trail, beach

Leisure Travel has planned two trips to mark the observance in February of Black History Month.

Take the Freedom Trail Tour in Savannah, Feb. 11 and see remnants of the Underground Railroad, the port of entry where slaves were bought and sold, old communities and Savannah's African-American Monument. The cost is \$25 for adults and \$20 for children 6-12.

A second trip is planned for Feb. 25 to Sapelo Island, considered the most homogenous direct link to Black Africa in the United States. Tour the island with a Native of Sapelo Island. Included in the \$50 per person price is transportation to the Visitors Center, ferry to Sapelo, tour and lunch.

Call 912-767-2841 at Stewart or 912-315-3674 at Hunter for additional information.

Love Valentine's Brunch at Club Stewart

Bring your sweetheart to the Valentine's Brunch at Club Stewart, building 405, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Feb. 12.

The menu will include *breakfast items, along with your favorites: chicken with scallion supreme sauce, beef stroganoff, rice pilaf with vegetables, roasted Rosemary red potatoes, corn souffle, broccoli with cheese, chocolate fountain, decadent chocolate torte, assorted desserts, strawberry shortcakes, and Mimosa samples.*

Advance tickets are \$12.95 for adults and \$6.45 for children. Prices at the door, on the day of the brunch, are \$14.95 for adults and \$7.45 for children. Children 4 and under are free.

For more information, call 912-368-2212.

Love more at Hunter Golf Special

Celebrate Valentine's Day with a golf outing with

your spouse or significant other at Hunter Golf Club, building 8205, on Feb. 12.

Purchase one greens fee and golf car fee and your spouse or significant other plays free. The special is in effect all day.

For more information, call 912-315-9115

Enjoy Sweetheart Tourney at Hunter

A special for sweethearts is planned Feb. 12, at Hunter Lanes, building 1280.

The 13th annual Sweetheart Tourney will feature male/female teams bowling in scotch double manner. Scoring will be 9 pin, no tap. Tourney is open to all bowlers. No handicaps. Pay \$25 per couple.

As part of Sweetheart Day, from 2 to 8 p.m., couples can bowl one game and get one game free from 2-8 p.m. Pay \$3 per couple and \$2 shoe rental per person.

For more information, call 912-315-6279.

Play Family kickball at Corkan

Corkan Family Fun Center, building 449, is bringing back all the fun of Family kickball indoors, from 6 to 8:30 p.m., Feb. 13. We'll play Family kickball again, during the same hours, Feb. 27.

Come on out and enjoy the fun. The cost is \$5 per Family. For more information, call 912-767-4273.

Valentine's Tea Party planned for kids

Dress them up and bring the little ones to their very own Valentine's Day Party at Stewart Lanes Bowling Center, building 450, from 9:30 to 11 a.m., Feb. 14. The event is free.

Parents are asked to bring a snack that can be shared with all the other children, and your toddler's very own Valentines to share. Stewart Lanes will provide the Capri Sun and the decorations.

For more information, call 912-767-4273.

Sign-up for Track & Field, soccer

Registration for youth Track & Field and Spring Soccer will end Feb. 17 at Parent Central Services, building 442 on Gulick Avenue.

Sports programs are open to youth members of Fort Stewart CYSS living on or off post. Track & Field is open to ages 7-14 (age as of Dec. 31, 2012) and Soccer is open to ages 4-13 (age as of March 1, 2012).

Parent Central Services is open by appointment only from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, and from 8 a.m. to noon on Friday. Walk-ins are welcome on Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call 912-767-2312. If you have a user ID, you may also register online at webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/stewartcyms.html. Volunteers are always needed to coach teams.

If you are interested in becoming a referee or a volunteer coach, please visit the Youth Sports Office located inside Jordan Youth Gym, building 608 on West 6th Street and request a volunteer packet. Volunteers are required to undergo a background check.

For more information about Youth Sports programs, call 912-767-4371/9342/9270. For more information regarding program registration requirements, call 912-767-2312.



**PLEASE USE
CAUTION WHEN
PASSING
TROOPS!**

**ARMY SAFE
IS ARMY STRONG**





CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Medicine for a wounded heart

Chaplain (Capt.) Carlos Whitley
92nd Engineer Battalion Chaplain

Ever scraped your knee when you were a child? What did Mama do to make it all better? She put medicine on it, right? She would clean the wound, dry it, maybe put some ointment on it and cover it with a band-aid to prevent further injury or infection. We do this all the time with our hearts.

You see, we are wounded people. There is no one who is perfect. We all make mistakes and suffer the consequences of those mistakes. Perhaps we suffer from the mistakes of others. These mistakes can lead to wounds of the heart. The wounds may be old from our childhood, recent from a deteriorating relationship, or a poor life choice. These wounds are real and often more unbearable than a cut or broken bone. For these wounds attack our very character, our drive, our passion for life. Wounds of the heart can cloud our ability to see the world objectively and see ourselves as whole.

How do we respond to wounds of the heart? We respond in much the same way as we would with any other wound. We seek some kind of medicine. We can't put a band-aid on our heart or sooth the pain with some ointment. So instead we seek other means

of finding relief from the pain. For some people, it is drugs, both legal and illegal. This offers temporary relief, an escape from the reality of life. However, when the drug wears off, reality becomes even more unbearable as guilt and shame set in. The same can be said of so many risky behaviors such as alcohol, gambling, relationships, etc. They may offer a moment of pleasure, but result in a lifetime of guilt and shame. Engaging in risky and morally wrong behavior is like scraping our knee, then taking a knife and poking it till muscle damage ensues. Why would we want to make the wound worst?

The solution when we are broken is to go back to the manufacturer and get fixed right. When our car breaks down we can go to a mechanic or the dealer. The dealer will have a better idea of how to fix it, though it may be more expensive. Going to our Creator isn't cheap either, but it is free. God offers healing for our wounded and broken hearts through forgiveness, correction and fellowship. Our places of worship should be seen as emergency rooms and hospitals of the heart. So, if your heart has been wounded, don't substitute true healing with a momentary high. Don't neglect the One who offers perfect healing. Find a place to worship the One who knows you better than you know yourself.



Chapel Schedule

Fort Stewart

Catholic	Location	Time
Sunday Mass	Main Post Chapel	9 a.m.
Weekday Mass	Main Post Chapel	11:45 a.m.
<i>(Confession available daily and before Sunday Mass)</i>		

Protestant (Sundays)		
Contemporary Worship	Marne Chapel	11 a.m.
Gospel Worship	Main Post Chapel	11 a.m.
Traditional Worship	Marne Chapel	9 a.m.
Liturgical Worship	Heritage Chapel	10 a.m.
Kids' Church (K-5th Grade)	Main Post Chapel	11 a.m.
PWOC (Wednesday)	Main Post Chapel	9:30 a.m.

Hunter Army Airfield

Catholic		
Sunday Mass	Hunter Chapel	11 a.m.
Weekday Mass (M,W,F)	Hunter Chapel	11:45 a.m.
Catholic CCD	Building 129	9:30 a.m.

Protestant		
Sunday Service	Hunter Chapel	9 a.m.
Kids' Church	Hunter Chapel	9 a.m.
	Fellowship Hall	

Religious Education Contacts
Fort Stewart Director Religious Education, Mike Iliff,
912-767-9789

Hunter Army Airfield Director Religious Education, Charles Archer,
912-315-5934



Special Deliveries

Provided by Winn Army Community Hospital

Jan. 22

Zyaire De Bord Ross, a boy, 7 pounds, 15 ounces, born to Cordarrel Ross and Jasmine Ross.

Jan. 23

Gregory Verdell Morgan Jr., a boy, 8 pounds, 15 ounces, born to Spc. Aleshea Renee Morgan.

Jan. 25

Lilyana Mercedes Perez, a girl, 5 pounds, 14 ounces, born to Spc. Ruben Jose Perez and Leslie Danyelle Perez.

Jan. 26

Aiyanna Chantelle Castillo, a

girl, 6 pounds, born to Sgt. Danny Castillo and Michelle Chantal Castillo.

Joel Anthony Sanchez, a boy, 7 pounds, 3 ounces, born to Spc. Kelvin Joel Sanchez and Jennifer Sanchez.

Jan. 27

Joseph Ronald Branch III, a boy, 8 pounds, born to Capt. Joe Branch and Amy Branch.

Jan. 28

Brayden Scott Clouse, a boy, 8 pounds, 1 ounce, born to Pvt. Andrew Clouse and Renee Clouse.

Thane Dylan Jones, a boy, 8 pounds, 6 ounces, born to Spc. Dylan Jones and Spc. Emily Jones.

Bentley William Shields, a boy, 6 pounds, 10 ounces, born to Spc. Ryan Joseph Shields and Brooke Shields.

Jan. 30

Lucas S. Brown, a boy, 5 pounds, 13 ounces, born to Sgt. Jarod Brown and Kristen N. Brown.

Rylee Marie Craps, a girl, 7 pounds, born to Pfc. Richard Drayton Craps and Emily Marie Craps.

Fort Stewart Chapel Youth Ministry

*Fort Stewart Youth Ministry
exists to share "Biblical Truth"
with middle and high school age youth,
to disciple them in the Christian faith,
and to equip them for lives
of Christian service.*

**For weekly meeting information, go to
www.twitter.com/ftstewartyouth
or contact
CH (Capt.) Christopher Rice,
Fort Stewart Youth
Ministry Coordinator
at 478-397-3991.**

Visit the Team Stewart Web site at www.stewart.army.mil for more information.

Top 10 best uses of your tax refund

Lisa Collazo
Army Community Service

Don't blow all your tax money! Note the tips below to hold on top some of your earnings.

10. Treat yourself to something you've been putting off. When you've taken care of "best uses" number one through nine, and there's still money leftover, splurge a little!

9. Start an education savings plan. In the 2011-2012 school year, tuition costs vary from just under \$3,000 per year at a public two-year college to over \$36,000 per year at a four-year private college. A college education raises earning potential significantly. The lifetime earning differential between high-school graduates and college graduates is somewhere between \$300,000 and \$1 million, depending on who you talk to. None the less, we want our children to have the option of attending college, and parental savings will certainly make that option an easier path for children. Check out *www.saving-forcollege.com* to learn more about college savings plans. (It should be noted that with the help of grants, scholarships, loans and work study programs anyone who desires a college education can have one).

8. Save for down payment on a house. Real estate values have been on the decline for more than five years. Bloomberg's Business Week predicts that values may not start to rebound until late 2012, and will only rebound to 2008 levels. According to RealtyTrac, Georgia has one of the top 10 greatest percent of savings when comparing October 2011 average sales price to average foreclosure sales price. What is the meaning of all this? This "buyer's market" that we're in will not end soon.

7. Earmark for seasonal goals (i.e. summer vacation, Christmas next year). Make a New Year's resolution to skip it if you can't pay cash for it. In case you don't want to skip vacation or Christmas gift buying, apply tax refund dollars toward saving for them.

6. Pay down extra principle on an asset (home or car). Giving an extra \$1,000 this year on a mortgage with a \$200,000 balance and a 5 percent annual percentage rate could save you more than \$3400 in interest over the life of the loan. Applying an extra \$1,000 to an auto loan balance of \$20,000 with an APR of 10 percent could save you nearly \$760 in interest!

5. Start up an IRA. Experts say we should have \$500,000 in our own savings and investments in order to live comfortably in retirement. Don't let market volatility paralyze your retirement dreams. The Financial Readiness Specialists can help you learn how to open an IRA and choose an investment that will fit your age and risk tolerance. While we're at it, we'll help you start up a TSP account as well.

4. Perform a needed home repair. Rather than waiting until the roof caves in, replace it this year with your tax refund. You may have received warning signs that a major appliance is on its way out. Set aside some tax refund money to replace it when it goes.

3. Perform a needed vehicle repair. Yes you can use Army Emergency Relief to buy your way out of an expensive car repair, but repayment of that (interest free) loan could cause another line item in your budget to go unfunded. Set aside some of this year's refund to make the POV repair.

2. Build an emergency savings account. I promise you that as soon as you finish writing the perfect budget for your household, something unexpected will come up. It just happens. This is what emergency savings is for, the big-ticket unexpected expenses. Without emergency savings, we tend to use credit. Go back to number seven and remember your resolution.

1. Pay off credit card debt. Drum roll please! The number-one best use of your tax refund is: eliminate unsecured debt! This is the portion of our debt that is costing us the most; the portion of our debt that is making the big bank executives richer! Stop the madness, and make 2012 your "turn around year." Turn yourself away from building debt, and toward building wealth!

Gold Star Wife brings others in area together

Crissie Elrick
Frontline Contributor

Area Gold Star Wives of all eras had the opportunity to meet and socialize for the first time in the area Jan. 27 when ladies — and gentlemen — gathered at the Georgia National Guard Armory in Savannah.

Patricia Barbee, formerly of Pembroke and a Gold Star Wife of the Vietnam era, helped coordinate the meeting, at the Georgia National Guard Armory at 1248 Eisenhower Drive in Savannah, to inform local Gold Star Wives of benefits available to them and give them an opportunity to socialize.

"Never has there been a Gold Star Wife meeting in the Coastal Empire," Barbee said.

Gold Star Wives are widows of men who have been killed in action, died from wounds in action, or died as a result of a wound or illness during their service, Barbee said.

Gold Star Husbands were welcome, too, she added.

"He may be a man, but he is still one of us because he's lost his best friend, spouse, love of his life and a whole lot more," Barbee said.

Speakers, brochures and packets and more were available to those who attended the meeting, she said.

"There are benefits to ladies that some may not even know of, even if it's only a discount at a department store," she said. "We wanted the ladies to know what is available."

Other topics, like housing and mortgages, were also discussed, she said.

Barbee added that she hoped the meeting encouraged Gold Star Wives to start a chapter in this region. Having one here would be a "major benefit," she said.

"It's the sistership, the friendship and getting to know one another," she said. "To know I've got the number of a Gold Star Wife and can go have a nice lunch is a blessing."



Courtesy Photo

Local Gold Star Wife Patricia Barbee stands by the name of her late husband, Marine Sgt. John W. Barbee, at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial.

She joined the organization after her Marine husband, the late Sgt. John W. Barbee, was killed in action in 1968.

Since then, the Boston native has served as the Gold Star Wives Mid Atlantic Regional chapter president, helped form a chapter, planned a national convention and much more during her many years dedicated to the organization.

Barbee said since she moved to Georgia in 1977, she has tried to bring some form of Gold Star Wives activity to the area and is thrilled to have received help over the past months while planning this meeting.

She said Third Infantry Division commanding general Maj. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams, who also "has buds on his shoulders for angel wings," has been a great help, along with Neil Russell, a coordinator with the Army's Survivor Outreach Services, who helped coordinate the meeting.

Barbee encourages wives who are interested to reach out to her at *gawives@yahoo.com*.



Critz Tybee Run Fest slated

A 5K will be held Friday night, tomorrow, at the Lighthouse, and Saturday will start off with a 10K, followed by a half marathon in the morning, then a 2.8-mile beach run and a one-mile run Saturday afternoon. If you participate in all five events, the distances add up to 26.2 miles - a full marathon. Please plan to register by today.

For more information, please visit The Critz Tybee Run Fest Web site at *www.critztybeerun.com*.

Book Festival broadcasts live on C-Span

This year's festival with a theme of "Lose Yourself in Books," promises an unforgettable five days to the thousands of visitors to the Festival and now, thanks to leading cable network C-SPAN, to a much wider audience throughout the USA.

Taking place from Feb. 15-19, and overlapping the Presidents Day weekend, over 40 author presentations will take place in and around Telfair Square in the heart of Historic Savannah.

Highlights include guest of honor - Stephen King; keynote speaker-Pat Conroy; master of thrillers – Brad Thor; and Walter Isaacson - author of the best-selling biography Steve Jobs.

For more information, call Robin Gold, 912-598-4040.

Enjoy Savannah outdoor racquetball

It's time to sign up for the Feb. 18th event. We

also have "Savannah Outdoor Racquetball" discounted hotel rates through *www.stayinsavannah.com*. Food and drinks will be supplied all day as well. Free lessons and loaner equipment will be available. For more information or to sign up, call 912-220-8901 or visit *www.goo.gl/clyZU*.

Pork it out in Jesup at Hog Jam

The 1st annual Wayne County Hog Jam is scheduled for Feb. 18 and 19 in Jesup, Ga. Children under 16 hunt free.

Registration fee is \$50 for gun and bow hunters and \$200 for dog team of four.

A \$7,000 payout is guaranteed. Hunt statewide where you have permission to hunt. Weigh-in happens at the Jaycee Fairgrounds in Jesup.

For more information, call the Wayne County Tourism Board at 912-427-3233 or visit *www.way-countyhogjam.com/waynecountyhogjam*.

Attend Star Student, Teacher luncheon

The Liberty County Chamber of Comemrce cordially invites you to the Star Student, Teacher Luncheon, featuring the top student and their chosen teacher from each high school.

The event is scheduled for noon, Feb. 16, at Bethesda Church, 116 Patriots Trail in Hinesville. Tickets are \$15 for chamber members and \$20 for non-members.

For more information, call 912-368-4445 no later than Feb. 13.

Volunteer Spotlight



Name: Amber Smith
Activity/Unit Volunteering for: 526th Engineer Co., 92nd En Bn.
Hometown: Monroe, N.C.
What do you like most about volunteering? "Meeting interesting people from all over the U.S."
Why do you volunteer? "I love supporting what my husband does and just to meet new people and make new friends."

Boy Scouts take walk at Warriors Walk



Photo by Pat Young, Fort Stewart Public Affairs

Soldiers of the Third Sustainment Brigade, Special Troops Battalion, march with Boy Scouts of America Troop 304 from Waycross, Ga., at Quick Track on Fort Stewart, following a visit to Warriors Walk, April 28. Mark Gibson, with the Scouts said they wanted to visit Fort Stewart to honor the Soldiers remembered at Warriors Walk and to learn more about Soldiers and service to the nation. Lieutenant Andrew Strickland, 3rd STB, said the event was an excellent opportunity for Soldiers and Scouts to hang out, and noted several of the Soldiers were Scouts prior to joining the Army.

TAX —————from Page 1B

Since its opening, the center has helped more than 200 clients on a walk in basis according to Capt. Catharine Parnell, the center’s officer in charge.

“We have a community around Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield of \$100,000 clients who are eligible to utilize this service.”

Clients using the center can expect to complete an initial intake and interview questionnaire that will aid the certified tax preparer on the customers’ needs.

“We get an idea of what the Soldier is looking at as it relates to the type of return,” Capt. Parnell said. “If they have rental property, how many children they have and what their filing status might be are just a few questions asked on the form. So when they get in front of a preparer we have an idea of what they might

need... Depending on the complexity of the returns, it can take any amount of time.”

The center is staffed with six preparers, in addition to several Soldiers who volunteer their services. With complex tax codes and filing extension requirements, the complimentary service adds value to qualified patrons.

Soldier’s who have been deployed during the tax year 2012 have 180 days after the April 17 to file their taxes according to Capt. Parnell. “It’s a good idea for Soldiers preparing to deploy to get their taxes filed before they leave. If the Soldier is down range, it’s best to wait until they return because you may not have all the documents you need to file accurately also you want to take advantage of that filing deadline. It is important to file before you leave

and Family Members should wait until their Soldier returns before filing. It’s best not to do it [file] when anyone is out of the country.”

The tax center is open 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday for patrons with a DoD identification card without appointment. The potential cost savings can vary per customer which is why it’s important for customers to bring as much information as possible before visiting the center.

“Many Soldiers have competing needs,” Capt. Parnell explained. “They have duty and Family needs. This is a quick and convenient service that saves them money and brings them a significant benefit. It’s good that we provide a service that is easy, convenient and free for every Soldier, Family Member and retiree on the installation.”



Photo by Elvia Kelly, Fort Stewart Public Affairs

Tracey Fairfax from Kessler Elementary School speaks after being recognized for District Teacher of the Year at Brittin Elementary School, Jan. 26.

WINN —————from Page 1B



Photo by Michelle Gordon, MEDDAC Public Affairs

Kevin Kuntz, President, Southeast Division, McCarthy Co; Capt. Lawrence G. St. Amand, Chief of Occupational Therapy; Capt. Philip McRae, Chief of Behavioral Health Medicine; Col. Christopher Hughes, 3rd ID DCG-S; Col. Ronald J. Place, MEDDAC Commander, Fort Stewart; Maj. Paula T. Smith, Chief of Physical Therapy; Lt. Col. David London, Deputy Commander, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Savannah District; Col. Stephen C. Wooldridge, Commander, U.S.A. Health Facility Planning Agency, break ground for the Winn ACH extension, Jan. 23.

He continues, "we now have an opportunity to bring more of that back into this central campus.”

Third Infantry Division Deputy Commanding General for Support, Col. Christopher Hughes, said the expansion represents Army leadership’s commitment to Soldier readiness and reinforces his trust that Soldiers and Families will be cared for despite the cost involved.

“Trust is a less discussed attribute of health care,” he said. “But in my opinion, trust is a critical cornerstone to who we are and what we represent in our Army today.

We trust that our Soldiers are ready for and recovered from war and that they need not worry about the health and welfare of their Families when deployed in defense of this great nation.”

Colonel Place said the addition will be patient-ready summer 2013, but added this is the just the first step in the process. Construction will be ongoing until 2016, which will include extensive renovations and expansions to both the outpatient pharmacy and the emergency department.

WOOF —————from Page 1B

On site are an A-Frame, Wait Table, Agility Walk, Hound Hurdles, Flexible Weave Poles and Tire Jump.

- Pickup stations with bags and receptacles make it convenient for owners to clean up after their pets.
- Water fountains in each area, designed so pets can drink from the doggie-bowl base area and humans can drink from the top area.
- Doggie watering/washing posts, with leash hooks, are located just outside Pooch Pines’ double-entrance gates, so pets can have a quick bath before the trip home.
- A sheltered area in both the small- and large-dog areas offers protection from rain, or the heat of the sun for pets and owners alike.
- Strategically placed benches in both areas allow owners a break while watching their pets.

A Portalet mobile sanitation system is expected to be placed at the park site for the convenience of pet owners or Family Members.

Captain Etta Wheeler and husband Brian bring Tuff, a boxer, to Pooch Pines at least once a week. She recently was assigned to the Third Sustainment Brigade at Fort Stewart.

“I like the size and the openness of it,” Capt. Wheeler said. “I like that they actually put the toys (equipment) out there. At a lot of places, they will have a dog park, but it’s just an open spot.” She said the benches and sheltered areas make the facility “very user friendly for both the dog and the owner.”

On a recent visit to Pooch Pines, six other dogs

joined Tuff as he romped around the dog park. “The dogs pretty much all got along, but one didn’t want to play well and the owners took him to the other area and kept him on a leash,” Capt. Wheeler said.

The following breeds (or pets mixed with the following breeds) are considered aggressive and are not permitted at Pooch Pines: English Staffordshire bull terrier, Chow, Doberman, Rottweiler, wolf hybrids and American Pit Bull/Shaffordshire terrier.

For additional information about using the agility equipment, go to www.dog-on-it-parks.com and look under the pull-down menu “Products.”

Three Reminders

The Pooch Pines Dog Park brochure provides a complete listing of rules for use of the park, as well as helpful tips for dog owners on a variety of topics. It is available at all Outdoor Recreation Facilities.

Susan Chipple, Director of Outdoor Recreation, emphasized three rules for dog owners using Pooch Pines:

- ~ For the safety of all, the dogs need to have appropriate vaccinations before they enter the park. Pet owners should have a record of their pet’s shots with them.
- ~ Owners must be in the park with their dogs.
- ~ And, dogs always have to have their collars on when they are in the park.”

Pooch Pines is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to active-duty/National Guard/Reserves/retirees/Families and DoD employees.

TEACHERS —————from Page 1B

Fairfax stated that this experience has been one of growth and realization.

“My personal feelings about this whole experience have been of growth and realization,” she said. “. . . It’s just been an eye-opener to the collaborative experience in how much that contributes to our growth in our community.”

Following the recognition ceremony, the slicing of the cake took place in honor of the three Marne teachers contribution to the Fort Stewart community.

RELATIONSHIPS —————from Page 1B

“I had a Soldier tell me that he didn’t realize that the military is an incubator relationship that can impact how you date and who you date,” explained Chap. (Capt.) Anthony Keim, the 260th Quartermaster Battalion chaplain.

“There’s a lot of relationship potential in one place,” added Chaplain (Capt.) John Walton, STB Chaplain and Program Manager for the retreats.

He added that this is one reason why the retreats are so important. "They get to learn from each other through shared experiences," Chap. Walton said. "Once they start the conversation, they talk more and more."

Specialist Ebony Walker, assigned to the 473rd Quartermaster Company, 260th QM, found this to be true during a session Saturday morning.

"I actually got to share my experience with someone," she said. "I think it really helped."

The Strong Bonds retreats have been hosted throughout the Army since 2003, and are based on Dr. John Van Epp's book, "How to Avoid Falling in Love With a Jerk." The book teaches readers of all age how to choose a marriage partner using their heads as well as their hearts. Lessons include using the Relationship Attachment Model, comprised of Know, Touch, Rely, Commit, Touch.

“I realized some mistakes I had made in past relationships,” said Pvt. Zachary Houtz, assigned to HHC, STB. “It hadn’t occurred to me until now. We generally ask about trust until last because why worry about commitment if there is no trust?”

Each chaplain taught the sessions to their own battalions, but the Soldiers had the opportunity to get to know each other once classes ended.

"I do wish we had some classes together, but it was nice to meet Soldiers from the STB," Spc. Walker said. "We have a big brigade."

"I enjoyed the way the chaplain broke everything down," said Sgt. Billy Scott, also assigned to the 473rd QM Co.

The 87th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade is slated to host the next singles retreat. A marriage retreat will follow in March.